

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Flanagan - Interior 2879

For Release to PM's, SEPTEMBER 25, 1961

## UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO FAO MEETING URGES RESEARCH IN NUTRITION - CORONARY FIELD

Evidence of the potential contribution which fishery products may make as one of the animal components of human diet emphasizes the critical need for more intensive and comprehensive research in the complex field of human nutritional health, the United States Delegation to the FAO International Conference on Fish in Nutrition, being held in Washington, D. C., declared Thursday by formal recommendation to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The statement says that the mechanism through which the unsaturated fatty acids lower cholesterol and other lipids of the blood is still not clear and its relationship to coronary heart disease and atherosclerosis is not understood. It states further that unsaturated fat is only one parameter of the nutritional health program and that "man himself appears to be the one research subject from which to draw definitive conclusions."

The delegation which is headed by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Frank P. Briggs listed five points which it considered necessary to overcome protein deficits and to provide protein supplements for human diets. These provisions are:

(1) FAO devise a series of minimal standards for classification of fish flours, meals, pastes, etc., for human consumption.

(2) That minimal standards for classes of each of these products include nitrogen, fat, ash, moisture and standards of safety and stability.

(3) That these standards take into account not only the nitrogen content - but also its biological value as routinely determined by standard biological assays of the protein.

(4) That these standards be devised for several classes of each fish products to accommodate the needs of various parts of the world and as a service that FAO identify manufacturers and their products meeting these standards.

Finally, it is the recommendation of the United States Delegation that FAO establish a Working Party, consisting of nutritionists, technologists and food process engineers, to implement the recommendations as to engineering and large-scale human testing of fish flour of the International Meeting on Fish Meal in Rome during March, 1961. This action is necessary because, at that meeting, there was no agreement as to practical methods for production of uniformly high quality, stable and low cost fish protein concentrates on a commercial scale.

The United States Delegation also urged the constant updating and expansion of information on the content of fish and fish products with respect to all the nutrients known to be involved in adequate human nutrition.

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